



## Save the Date: July 14-16 2009

### NOAA Bay Watershed Education and Training Program National Conference

The 2009 B-WET National Conference will take place July 14th-16th, 2009. The agenda is in development, however we recognize that you need to begin making plans and wanted to provide some basic overview and logistical information.

**What:** B-WET National Conference. The conference is an opportunity for B-WET grantees from around the country to come together to share experiences and information, while learning more about NOAA, NOAA science, and the policy climate that shapes the world we work in as environmental educators. Conference activities will include poster sessions, relevant speakers, project site visits, and networking sessions. A detailed agenda will follow.

**Who:** All B-WET Grantees

**When:** The conference will convene mid-morning on July 14th and close mid-day on the 16th. There will be some optional activities organized for attendees who wish to extend their stay in the area.

**Where:** NOAA Auditorium and Science Center, Silver Spring, Maryland (1301 East-West Highway, Silver Spring, MD 20910) See Conference Location below for more information.

#### Questions?

For questions about the B-WET National Conference, please contact your local B-WET Program Manager or B-WET National Coordinator Bronwen Rice (EMAIL: [Bronwen.rice@noaa.gov](mailto:Bronwen.rice@noaa.gov), PHONE: (202) 482-6797, FAX: (202) 482-0742)

**Conference Web Site:** <http://www.oesd.noaa.gov/BWET/09conference/index.html>

**Conference Events:** NOAA Auditorium and Science Center, Silver Spring, Maryland (1301 East-West Highway, Silver Spring, MD 20910)

**Conference Hotel:** Hampton Inn of Silver Spring (8728 Colesville Road, Silver Spring, MD 20910, (301) 588-5887)

Silver Spring is accessible by the DC Metro Red Line.

**Google Map:** <http://maps.google.com/maps/ms?hl=en&ie=UTF8&msa=0&msid=116037515079304167347.000463c381b33c2aa2714&ll=38.994664,-77.028&spn=0.015059,0.032959&z=16>

# B-WET BAY WATERSHED EDUCATION & TRAINING PROGRAM

## **Hotel Information:**

A room block has been reserved at the Hampton Inn of Silver Spring (8728 Colesville Road, Silver Spring, MD 20910, (301) 588-5887, <http://hamptoninn.hilton.com/en/hp/hotels/index.jhtml?ctyhocn=WASSSHX>)

NOAA B-WET will pay for lodging for conference attendees traveling from greater than 50 miles away (up to two people per institution) for the nights of July 14th and 15th. Attendees traveling from Hawaii and the West Coast are also eligible for a room the night of the 13th.

While not required, attendees from the same organization are strongly encouraged to share rooms for the conference dates. Remember: less money spent on the conference means more money that can be used to fund B-WET projects like yours!

Reservations can be made by calling 1-800-HILTONS (445-8667)

Hotel: Hampton Inn of Silver Spring

The group code for the East Coast (two night stay, July 14th/15th) is ECB

The group code for the West Coast and Hawaii (three night stay, July 13th/14th/15th) is WCB.

This conference is listed as the “NOAA Grantees Conference” with Hilton, in case the operator has trouble locating the group.

NOAA will pay for hotel costs (nightly rate, tax) for the conference dates (as outlined above.) If you plan to extend your stay either before or after the event, you will need to provide credit card information to secure the reservation. The Hampton Inn will extend the event rate (\$149/night) for 3 days before and after the conference for attendees who wish to extend their stay. Attendees are responsible for any additional charges incurred.

## **Travel Information:**

Directions to the Hampton Inn

From Baltimore: Take I-95 South to I-495 West to Exit 30 (Colesville Road). The hotel is 1 (one) mile south on the right, just past Spring Street intersection.

From I-495 East: Travel to Exit 30B (Colesville Road). The hotel is 1 (one) mile south on the right just past Spring Street intersection.

From Washington DC: Take 16th Street NW heading north for 6 miles. Make a right onto Colesville Road (Route 29). The hotel is located 5 blocks north on left just past Fenton Street.

## **DC Region Airports:**

The Washington, DC area is served by three different airports. Residents of the Washington, DC area may use all of the airports depending on their specific travel needs. Depending on your destination, some airlines may offer better prices from one location than another. You may also find direct flights from one airport and not from another.

Here is a summary of some of the differences of each airport. For information about flight reservations and pricing, you'll have to call the specific airline directly or check online with a reservation service.

### *Washington National Airport (DCA)*

Ronald Reagan Washington National Airport, commonly known as National Airport, is located in Arlington County, Virginia and is the closest airport to downtown Washington, DC. National Airport is the most convenient of the area airports for visitors staying in the heart of the city and residents who live in the downtown area. The airport is accessible by Metro. During rush hour, National Airport can be difficult to get to, especially from the suburbs of Maryland and Virginia. A short runway limits the size of the aircraft that fly in and out of Washington (the largest is a 757), so the airport only offers domestic flights and a few flights to Canada and the Caribbean.

### *Dulles International Airport (IAD)*

Dulles International Airport is located 26 miles from Washington, DC in Chantilly, Virginia. The airport is about a 40 minute drive from downtown Washington, DC in non-rush hour traffic. The Dulles Airport Access Road makes the airport easy to get to once you get off of I-495. There are plenty of shuttles and taxis to transport visitors around the region. Since Washington, DC traffic is often congested, you should plan ahead and avoid flight times near rush hour. Dulles Airport uses mobile lounges known as "people movers" to shuttle passengers from the terminal to the gates. This process can take extra time, so keep this in mind and be sure to give yourself enough time to get the gate.

### *Baltimore-Washington International Airport (BWI)*

Baltimore Washington International Airport is located south of Baltimore., North on I-95 toward Baltimore to I-195. Take I-195 East (exit 47 off of I-95) toward BWI Airport. Follow the signs to the terminal. Southwest Airlines has just built a new terminal here and offers lots of flights at lower prices than some of its competitors. The MARC and Amtrak train station is nearby offering train service to Union Station in Washington, DC. BWI is a test site for the Department of Homeland Security and is used to try out new airport security screening methods. As a result, sometimes the security lines can be quite long, so plan ahead for unexpected delays.

### **Getting Around DC:**

To say that traffic is very congested in Washington, DC is an understatement. To get around the city, you must have patience and a good sense of direction. Street parking is hard to find and most garages charge \$5 an hour or \$20 per day.

For the newcomer, finding your way around can be very confusing. The city is divided into quadrants—Northeast (NE), Northwest (NW), Southeast (SE) and Southwest(SW). These sections of town come together around the U. S. Capitol, which marks the center of the city. Addresses in Washington, D. C. include a direction, which tells you which quadrant of the city the address is located in. You need to be careful because the same street name and number may exist in for example, NE as well as NW.

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You should be sure to look at a map and plan your route before you venture out to a new place. The traffic lights in the city are on the sides of the roads, rather than overhead. Be careful at the traffic circles throughout the city. You can easily end up on the wrong road, especially at night when signs may be hard to read.

Washington, DC has a bus system to get around the National Mall. DC Circulator Buses provide an inexpensive way to get around the city's most popular attractions. Buses run every 5 to 10 minutes and will cost \$1 per ride.

The best way to get across town and to the suburbs of Maryland and Virginia is by Metro. The Washington Metropolitan Transit Authority is relatively clean and safe. To find the Metro stations, look for the tall brown columns with the large "M."

Metro opens at 5:30 a.m. on weekdays and 7 a.m. weekends. It closes at midnight Sunday through Thursday. On Friday and Saturday nights, it stays open until 3 a. m. Fares range in price from \$1.35 to \$3.75 based on the distance you travel. Unless you want to carry around lots of change, be sure to have plenty of \$1 bills to buy your tickets. The ticket machines will give you change for 5, 10 or 20 dollar bills, but only in quarters. Transfers are free within the Metro. There are five different Metrorail lines that go around Washington, Maryland and Virginia. Plan your route and be sure to notice if you need to change lines to reach your destination.

Since some areas of town are a long walk from Metro stations, and the DC Circulator buses do not run throughout the city, it may be easier to get to some places by Metrobus. Bus stops have red, white and blue signs or flags. As the bus approaches the stop, look for the route number and destination displayed above the windshield. Fares range from \$1.25 to \$2.50 with transfers for \$.35.

Taxis are easy to find around Washington. To get around the downtown area, the fare will range from \$4 to \$15. Each passenger may be charged an addition \$1.50.

## Additional Transportation Resources

DC Metro: <http://www.wmata.com/>

Public Transportation Directions: [www.hopstop.com](http://www.hopstop.com)

General: <http://dc.about.com/>

